

Rao Sahib Mr. T. V. Kasturi Ranga Ayyar.—Sitting at the head of this block, I rise to associate myself with all that has been so eloquently said by the mover and supporter of the motion about that great politician, nationalist and social reformer that figured prominently in the public life of India during the last half a century. About the views and activities of Lalaji as a politician, there may be differences of opinion, and this is not the place nor am I competent, to comment on them. But his name stands foremost and will stand for ever as a great nationalist and social reformer. Recognising that India cannot develop as a self-respecting nation unless all prejudices and jealousies attendant on the existence of many religions, castes and creeds are set aside, he strove himself with a spirit of self-sacrifice and philanthropy unparalleled in the history of India to create a feeling of nationalism in the minds of all Indians, whether Hindu, Mohamadan, Sikh, Christian or Jew, Brahmin or Non-Brahmin or Depressed Classes and to generate a feeling of oneness in all. And he succeeded marvellously. It is his labours in this respect that will stand as a monument of his name and fame. His life must be a beacon light to us to make us ignore all communal jealousies and wranglings for official favours, and to work as one united unit of intelligent citizens in the cause of attaining true nationhood. There cannot be a more appropriate memorial to him than this as observed by Mahatma Gandhiji. With these words I join in the tribute paid to the memory of the deceased Lala Lajpat Rai.

(The resolution was put and agreed to by all the Members standing up.)

Questions and Answers.

Contracts in the P. W. D. without tenders.

61. Mr. T. A. Ramachandra Ayyar.—Will the Government be pleased to lay on the Table a list of works given to contractors without calling for tenders by the P. W. D. in 1103, showing the name of the work and the estimate amount and the names of contractors to whom the works were entrusted?

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon.—A list showing the particulars required is appended. (*Vide Appendix I.*)

Mr. T. A. Ramachandra Ayyar.—In Appendix I some works are not very important works requiring any engineering skill. May I know why no tender was called for such works?

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon.—Which are those works?

Mr. T. A. Ramachandra Ayyar.—Item No. 3 for Rs. 200. Further, most of the works are not important.

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon.—That was the reason why no tenders were called for. As regards this work, item No. 3, it was an urgent work to be carried out. I suppose it was a very small work and it was given to the contractor who was working in this place at that time.

Mr. T. A. Ramachandra Ayyar.—There are works which cost Rs. 3,500 and Rs. 3,000 in the list and why no tenders were called for them?

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon.—Well, that was a work which was to be carried out very, very urgently.

Mr. T. A. Ramachandra Ayyar.—What was the urgency?

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon.—Because there was a proposal that His Highness the Maharaja would be going to Trichur. At that time we had to do it in a short time.

Mr. T. A. Ramachandra Ayyar.—What was the urgency of item No. 12?

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon.—That was a very important work, and we wanted to get it done by a man who had already experience of that type. And so it was given to Mr. Chakko who has had experience in the Enamakkal Bund a year ago.

Mr. T. A. Ramachandra Ayyar.—What was the urgency with regard to item No. 19?

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon.—It was an urgent work.

Mr. T. A. Ramachandra Ayyar.—It was an urgent work; how?

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon.—We have to provide facilities for Members going on tour and so we had to do it quickly.

Mr. T. A. Ramachandra Ayyar.—What was the urgency?

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon.—We wanted to get it done.

Mr. T. A. Ramachandra Ayyar.—Are there not other contractors to do that work?

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon.—No. He is the best contractor.

Mr. T. A. Ramachandra Ayyar.—Is he the best contractor?

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon.—To our information he is the best contractor.

Mr. T. A. Ramachandra Ayyar.—There are some other contracts for which tenders are not called for. Why were not these given to this best contractor? May I know why?

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon.—Which are those works?

Mr. T. A. Ramachandra Ayyar.—There are several works the names of which are given in the list.

President.—I think only two contracts were given to this man.

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon.—For Enamakal work he had a special claim as he had worked at it before, *i. e.*, a year ago.

Mr. T. A. Ramachandra Ayyar.—I find he was working elsewhere also.

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon.—In Trichur he is about the best contractor, I suppose.

President.—What the Hon'ble Member wants to bring out is that one man is not to monopolise all the works.

Mr. T. A. Ramachandra Ayyar.—With regard to item No. 7 what was the urgency?

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon.—The same reasons which I stated for item No. 5 apply to this also.

Works in the P. W. D. not given to the lowest tenderers.

62. Mr. T. A. Ramachandra Ayyar.—Will the Government be pleased

(a) to place on the Table a list of the works not given to the lowest tenderers by the P. W. D. in 1103 showing the names of the works, estimate amount, name of the persons who submitted the tenders with their rates and the name of those whose tenders were accepted;

(b) to state the reason for not accepting the lowest tenders in each case?

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon.—(a) Out of the approximate number of 1,600 tenders disposed of in 1103 those for 110 works were not awarded to the lowest tenderers. Government consider that the labour involved in preparing a list of the nature asked for is not commensurate with the benefit to be derived therefrom.

(b) Vide reply above.

Mr. T. A. Ramachandra Ayyar.—May I know why the lowest tenders were not accepted?

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon.—You want to know the reason why the lowest tender has not been accepted in each case. Our answer is that from our experience of previous occasions, we thought that the persons whose tenders were accepted were better fitted to get the work done than the lowest tenderers.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

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APPENDIX I.

(Vide Answer to Question No. 61.)

No.	Name of work	Estimate amount	Name of contractor
		Rs.	
1	Constructing a latrine for the servants of H. H. Kunjipilla Thampuran of Palace No. 41	205	Palace cashier
2	Do side walls by the side of the Hill Palace road at 2/4 where it joins Athampilli Kavu road	250	M. T. Pathrose
3	Dismantling and reconstructing cracked portions of wall of kitchen in the Puthenkovilagam, Cranganur	200	K. N. Rama Pai
4	Constructing a portico attached to the Palace in the Paliyam compound at Trippunittura occupied by H. H. Kavu Thampuran	1,350	Palace cashier
5	Constructing compound walls on the northern and eastern sides of Trichur Puthiakovilagam	3,500	A. S. Mahadeva Ayyar
6	Certain works in the Merry Lodge Palace	605	K. Kittu Menon
7	Certain works in the Trichur Puthiakovilagam	3,000	A. S. Mahadeva Ayyar
8	Constructing a granite revetment wall and a compound wall in the Puthen Bungalow, Palace No. 1	600	T. S. Ramakrishna Ayyar
9	Constructing a Madapilli attached to the new Palace of H. H. Kunjipilla Thampuran of Palace No. 41	2,850	Palace cashier
10	Constructing a latrine for the use of H. H. Kunjipilla Thampuran of Palace No. 41	340	do.
11	Putting up coffer boxes for the new weir at Enamakkal Dam	567	N. O. Inasu
12	Repairing and maintenance of Enamakkal ring bund	3,392	C. D. Chakku

No.	Name of work	Estimate amount Rs.	Name of contractor
13	Constructing compound wall in Palace No. 6 at Trippunittura occupied by H. H. the Elaya Raja	1 620	Palace cashier
14	Providing a wooden rack for the Vadakkancheri Registry Office	395	C. C. Chakko
15	Repairs to the protective works done to Puthenchira	185	K. Kittunni
16	Certain works in the Town Hall, Ernakulam	130	S. Sitarama Ayyar
17	Shifting the covered passage attached to Nalukettu in the Hill Palace	175	P. N. Vishnu Nambudiripad
18	Walling up east and west verandahs in the Palace at Ernakulam occupied by H. H. the 18th Prince	275	Palace cashier
19	Certain improvements to Tattamangalam staff-quarters	1,700	C. D. Chakku
20	Constructing a room and chaippu in Palace No. 31/B occupied by H. H. Ikkavu Thampuran	650	Palace cashier
21	Putting up glass shutters to the windows of the Diwan Peishkar's Office	400	C. C. Varunni
22	Laying service connection to the women and children's Hospital at Mattancheri	1,368	M. Nanu Menon
23	Replacing steel pipes on the Perandur bridge with C. I. pipes	2,000	do
24	Laying service connection to Rice Mills of Messrs. C.S. Krishna Ayyar and Brothers, Nemmara	51—10—10	do